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Outcome of the fourth review of the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia

1. On 16 November 2010, the Government of Liberia and the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia (see PBC/4/LBR/2) to accompany Liberia's peacebuilding efforts. The agreed priorities were: strengthening the rule of law; supporting security sector reform; and promoting national reconciliation. It was also agreed that periodic reviews of the targets of the statement of mutual commitments would be carried out to monitor progress and amend the statement as needed.

2. The first review of the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments was conducted in 2011, the outcome document of which modified the original statement and created new commitments and targets. The document was adopted by the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 13 March 2012. The second and third reviews focused on the main advancements and challenges that emerged between August 2011 and 31 December 2013.

3. The fourth review was delayed owing to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in Liberia in 2014. The review focuses on the status of implementation from 1 January to 31 December 2014 and draws upon the progress reports provided by the Government of Liberia, inputs from the members of the Liberia configuration and mission reports of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. The progress report concludes that in the light of the impact of the Ebola virus disease on the peacebuilding process in Liberia in 2014, and the decision by the Security Council to draw down the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the way forward for the statement of mutual commitments should be discussed with a view to adapting the Commission's engagement to the specific emerging peacebuilding needs and priorities of Liberia in 2015. This engagement should draw upon national strategies and policies (namely, the Agenda for Transformation, the Ebola recovery plan and the Government of Liberia Plan for UNMIL Transition). Based on existing national plans and assessments, the visit by the Chair and input from recent meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Commission invites the Secretary-General to make recommendations for this updated engagement in view of the planned drawdown of UNMIL.

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4. The Peacebuilding Commission welcomes the announcement by the World Health Organization that Liberia has been declared free of Ebola and commends Liberia for its resilience against the outbreak. The Commission stresses the importance of maintaining international support following the Ebola crisis to ensure progress in the peacebuilding priorities, in particular in the security sector. It also recognizes that the primary responsibility for peace consolidation and development rests with the Government and people of Liberia. Close cooperation will ensure that peacebuilding matters, and particularly urgent political issues, are placed on the agenda for consultation between the Government of Liberia and its partners, including the Peacebuilding Commission.